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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,044	09/24/2003	Tateo Kawamura	JP920020131US1	6706
28342	7590	08/31/2006	EXAMINER	
SAMUEL A. KASSATLY LAW OFFICE 20690 VIEW OAKS WAY SAN JOSE, CA 95120			PESIN, BORIS M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2174	

DATE MAILED: 08/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/671,044	Applicant(s) KAWAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Boris Pesin	Art Unit 2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 21-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 21-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 6/13/2006.

Claims 1-3 and 21-37 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 26, and 34 are independent claims. In the amendment filed 6/13/2006, Claims 1-3 were amended and claims 21-37 were added as new. This action is made Final.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 25 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 25 and 44 indicate "the documents in the messages comprise a collection of documents that are scheduled for editing." However, the specification teaches that "The documents in the thread are a collection of documents whose editing is not scheduled." The specification appears to teach something that is completely opposite of what the Applicant claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3 and ~~7-20~~²¹⁻³⁷ ~~8.8.~~ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang et al. (US 2004/0119740).

In regards to claim 1, Chang teaches a processor-implemented document display system, comprising: document storage means for storing a group of documents exchanged via a network (See Figure 8);

means for extracting a relationship between a plurality of documents in the group of documents (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey. In other embodiments, various subjects may be discussed and comprise a thread"* Paragraph [0032]);

related information storage means for storing the relationship (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread*

which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey.” Paragraph [0032]);

and virtual document generation means for forming a section group and for generating a virtual document by mapping the contents of the documents within the section group, and by combining the documents into the virtual documents; (i.e. *“The display module 210 is configured to format the received electronic message based on instructions from the control module 250. In one embodiment, the control module 250 instructs the display module 210 to generate the displayed electronic message. The displayed electronic message may include content of the received electronic message with selected portions elided in response to header module 220, the repeated text module 230, the signature module 260, and/or the elision module 270. In one embodiment, the display module 210 is configured to generate a plurality of displayed electronic messages which correspond to a plurality of received electronic messages.”* Paragraph [0036]);

wherein the documents within the virtual document are displayed according to the expansion condition associated with the documents (*“A symbol 830 represents a suppressed message(s). The suppressed message(s) are available for viewing in response to a request and are hidden to allow a condensed viewing of the plurality of messages 820, 835, and 850). ”* Paragraph [0069]).

In regards to claim 2, Chang teaches a system according to claim 1, wherein the virtual document generation means forms the section group by embedding a document

header and a level indicating a depth of hierarchy from a main document (See Figure 8).

In regards to claim 3, Chang teaches a system according to claim 1, wherein the related information storage means stores information of a parent document related to the document read from a document storage means (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032]).

In regards to claim 21, Chang teaches a system according to claim 1, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a hierarchical relationship (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8).

In regards to claim 22, Chang teaches the system according to claim 1, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a thread; and wherein the group of documents form a message (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8).

In regards to claim 23, Chang teaches the system according to claim 22, further comprising an expansion condition storage unit for storing an expansion condition of the

message, wherein the virtual document generation unit generates a section by fetching an expansion condition of the message from the expansion condition storage unit (“A symbol 830 represents a suppressed message(s). The suppressed message(s) are available for viewing in response to a request and are hidden to allow a condensed viewing of the plurality of messages 820, 835, and 850).” Paragraph [0069]).

In regards to claim 24, Chang teaches the system according to claim 23, further comprising a user interactive processing unit for accepting an expansion request to a header from a user, wherein the virtual document generation unit is used to add the message to the virtual document on the basis of the expansion request accepted by the user interactive processing unit (“The elision module 270 is configured to selectively suppress a portion of the received electronic message. In one embodiment, the elision module 270 suppresses the repeated text, the header information, and/or the signature information in response to the repeated text module 230, the header module 220, and the signature module 260, respectively. In one embodiment, the elision module 270 selectively suppresses portion(s) of the received electronic message in response to the control module 250.” Paragraph [0034]).

In regards to claim 25, Chang teaches the system according to claim 23, wherein the documents in the messages comprise a collection of documents that are scheduled for editing (See Figure 8).

Claims 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 are similar in scope to claims 1, 2, 3, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 respectively; therefore they are rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 34, 35, 36, and 37 are similar in scope to claims 1, 2, 3, and 21 respectively; therefore they are rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/13/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that Chang does not teach a system for displaying documents by extracting a relationship between a plurality of documents in the group of documents and generating a virtual document from a plurality of documents. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Chang teaches, "*The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey. In other embodiments, various subjects may be discussed and comprise a thread*" Paragraph [0032]). By determining what thread each of the documents (message) belongs to, Chang is extracting the relationship between all of the documents. The thread itself is a virtual document that is made from a plurality of documents.

In regards to the Applicant's argument that Chang does not teach extracting a relationship between the documents of the virtual document, the Examiner points out that "extracting a relationship between the documents of the virtual document" is not part of the claim limitations, and therefore the argument is moot.

In regards to the Applicant's argument that Chang does not teach displaying the virtual document according to the expansion condition associated with the document, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Chang teaches, "*A symbol 830 represents a suppressed message(s). The suppressed message(s) are available for viewing in response to a request and are hidden to allow a condensed viewing of the plurality of messages 820, 835, and 850.*" Paragraph [0069].

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Inquiry


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris Pesin whose telephone number is (571) 272-4070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday except every other Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BP


STEVEN SAX
PRIMARY EXAMINER